

party in power in Ontario have passed an act providing a bounty for iron ore production in Canada. We are importing practically 100 per cent of the iron ore being used in Canada. The Ontario government sent a message to this government, asking whether they would go halves in giving this bounty to assist in the production of iron ore in Canada and the use of Canadian iron ore in blast furnaces, but so far as I know they have received no encouragement from this government, and consequently they are to-day going to give an iron ore bounty themselves, I understand, the province bearing the whole cost of the bounty to develop the production of our iron ore.

It is a most important question, Mr. Speaker. Here we have a country with hundreds of millions of tons of iron ore scattered over it from the Atlantic to the Pacific. There are hundreds of millions of tons of iron ore in northern Ontario, British Columbia, some in the Maritime provinces, and some right outside of Ottawa. Within fifty miles of where we are sitting to-day there are large deposits of iron ore, claimed to be of very high quality. This iron ore cannot compete with the iron ore in the United States. No one will dispute that if, by giving a bounty or some other form of assistance, we could develop the production of iron ore in Canada, and use our own product instead of importing this iron ore from the American shores of Lake Superior, it would be a good thing for this country. We have running across northern Ontario three lines of railway, and that is one section of this country that is not getting the traffic it might get; it has not the population. The great proportion of the hundreds of millions of tons of iron ore in Canada, exist in northern Ontario, and the great proportion of the railway lines that need traffic are in northern Ontario. Nearly fifty per cent of the whole traffic in the United States comes from the mines, and in Canada we are importing hundreds of millions of dollars worth of iron ore and iron goods of various kinds.

I have here the monthly bulletin of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, and in an article the Deputy Minister of Mines, Dr. Camsell, gives import and export figures showing that in iron and iron products we imported in 1923, in round figures, \$170,000,000; in non-ferrous metals, \$40,000,000, and non-metallic minerals, \$171,000,000, making a total of \$381,000,000. Surely, the building up of an iron industry would be of the utmost importance to Canada, because the iron and steel industry is one of the basic

[Mr. Manion.]

elements of commercial prosperity in any country. Before the war, Germany and the United States were rapidly coming to lead the world in the production of iron and steel. England, up to a few years ago, led the world, but Germany caught up, and the United States has now far surpassed her. It would be of vast benefit to Canada to develop this industry, and I think this government has been derelict in its duty in not meeting half way the Ontario government. The reason is, of course, this government was afraid of opposition from my friends to my left, who, at any rate, are consistent and insist on stopping anything in the shape of protection of any kind.

Mr. LEWIS: Why could not this industry be developed without a bounty? Are there any special reasons why it could not compete with the industry in the United States?

Mr. MANION: I wish to finish by six o'clock, but I will answer briefly. The reason is the iron industry in the United States has got a start. It had immense capital to develop it, and hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent on plant, railways and steamship lines. They have a development there which we cannot compete with at the present time. My hon. friend from East Toronto (Mr. Ryckman) tells me that the industry in the United States also started with a bounty. They have millions of dollars tied up in that industry, and our poor little mines in northern Ontario, with no capital to speak of, cannot compete with them. The claim is also made, unfortunately, that our iron ore which has been developed up to the present time is not equal in quality to the iron ore of the United States.

Mr. WARNER: Could it be developed in large enough quantities to compete with the United States?

Mr. MANION: Yes, we have hundreds of millions of tons.

Mr. BROWN: I have been informed that the iron ore of Minnesota is very easily mined. Can the ore of northern Ontario be mined as easily?

Mr. MANION: Some of the iron ore in Minnesota can be more easily mined than any we have yet discovered in Canada. Some they can simply dig out with a steam shovel, but that is exhaustible. Jim Hill—J. J. Hill, the great Canadian whom you all know—made the statement fifteen years ago that within 25 or 30 years the iron ore of the United States would be within sight of exhaustion. About 60,000,000 tons a year of iron ore are being